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SUBJECT: OMAN MEDIA REACTION: OPTIMISM, FRUSTRATION ON THE PEACE  
PROCESS

11. SUMMARY: the peace process dominates Omani editorials, with  
disparate messages evoking cautious optimism, economic pragmatics,  
and frustration at apparent U.S. inconsistency. END SUMMARY.

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"Light at the end of the Tunnel?"  
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12. On November 2, state Arabic daily "Oman" (circulation 38,000)  
looked optimistically at efforts to ease regional tensions, saying  
"Positive Signs May Open the Way for Further Steps":

"Although the atmosphere of unrest hangs over the skies of the  
Middle East, there are indications of an end to a climate of  
turmoil and a calming of tensions. In this context, Iran has made  
progress with its initial proposal to the IAEA aimed at  
transferring parts of its uranium to Russia for enrichment and  
return for use in the health and agriculture sectors. On the other  
side, Israel's welcoming of Turkey's mediation with Syria is  
another positive indication that negotiations may take place sooner  
than many expect. Also, Senator Mitchell's tour and a visit by the  
U.S. Secretary of State in the region are also positive. So is  
there a light at the end of the tunnel?"

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Arabs Must Provide Economic Support to Palestinians  
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13. On November 3, Private Arabic daily "Al Watan" (circulation  
42,000) called on Arabs to provide not only political but economic  
support to the Palestinians, in "Arabs and the Inevitability of  
Supporting the Palestinian Economy":

"While Israel is getting unlimited support from the U.S. and the  
European Union, we find that Israel denies the basic rights of  
Palestinians by imposing embargos, through military aggression, and  
via the employment of other tools of political, military, and  
economic strangulation. Therefore, Arab support for the  
Palestinian people should not be limited to political support, but  
also should help sustain them as their leaders negotiate with

Israel. Moreover, economic support is important because it is critical to the daily life of Palestinians."

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U.S. Comments = Lack of Seriousness on Peace  
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14. On November 5, "Al-Watan" criticized the U.S. stance toward the Palestinians, one it sees as both inconsistent and a clear indication of U.S. bias: "Words to the Palestinians. . . Deeds to the Israelis":

"Variation in the official U.S. position on the peace process does not suggest any confusion, hesitation, or inability on the part of the Obama administration, but rather confirms its success in pushing Palestinians and Arabs in the same vicious circle as previous administrations. The comments by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Special Envoy Mitchell have changed depending on the situation, which confirms the lack of seriousness of the U.S. as a mediator and its blind bias to the Zionist entity. The Arabs need to reformulate policies in dealing with U.S. as mediators of peace in the Middle East."  
Schmierer